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No. IX.

Remarks on certain Articles found in an Indian Tumulus at Cincinnati, and now deposited in the Museum of the American Philosophical Society. By GEORGE TURNER.

Philadelphia, November 25th, 1799.

SIR,

Read Dec. 6th, 1799. **A**S the writer of the paper No. XXII. Vol. IV. p. 179. of the Society's Transactions, appears to be under some misconceptions concerning *certain* articles found in an Indian tumulus at Cincinnati, and now deposited in the Society's museum, I beg leave to offer a few remarks on them.

* Fig. 1. and 2. are each described to be "a stone or composition."

Remark. Both are *natural* stones. The former resembles the greenish grey porphyry: the latter is a jasper [*heliotrope*] marked with blood-coloured veins and spots on a green basis.

Fig. 3. "A *crystalline substance*," &c. "of *considerable transparency*."

Rem. This is *pure rock crystal, perfectly transparent*.

Fig. 4. "As *figure 1*. Mixed black and yellow colours."

Rem. This, too, is a *natural* stone, a beautiful specimen of granite.

Fig. 5. "Probably a *composition*," &c. "seems to have been hardened by the *sun or fire*, and unequally compressed by the operation."

Rem.

* See the plate, p. 180.

Rem. This is evidently a *natural* production ; a ferruginous stone, and perhaps of volcanic origin.

Fig. 6. "A representation of the bill of some bird *not now known in this country.*"

Rem. It is a bill or beak by no means unknown in the United States, being common to all rapacious birds, such as the eagle, hawk, vulture, &c. their upper mandible, like that of the present subject, having a cultrated point, the distinguishing mark of birds belonging to that class. From the size and general form of this figure, it appears to have been designed to represent the beak of an eagle.

Fig. 7. "A regular circular figure, of rusty black colour, tolerably well polished, and not unlike ebony in appearance, but much less ponderous ; probably either of coal or a *composition.*"

Rem. The former part of the writer's conjecture as to the substance of this article is right, as far as it goes : it is not the ordinary coal, however, but what is usually termed Cannel coal [*ampelites*] as the bare inspection of the subject will discover.* Col. Sargent supposes, that the small perforations in the rim were designed to secure it upon a large axis. But, if a rotatory motion was intended to be given to it, an angular perforation in the centre, instead of the circular one there, would have far more efficiently answered that purpose. It is worthy of remark here, that in the Trans-

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* Were farther proof necessary, I might refer to the specimen of Cannel coal brought from Cincinnati and by me presented to the Society.

actions of the Scots Antiquaries, vol. i. p. 388, there is a plate of two ancient fibulæ, both formed out of *Cannel* coal. One of them, like this, is of a circular figure, but narrower in the rim, and rather less in diameter. Perhaps, both were designed for similar purposes by their ancient rude owners, though separated by an ocean a thousand leagues wide ! Kindred acts will spring from kindred manners.

Fig. 8. “Also a similar figure,* yellowish colour; appears to have been hardened by the *sun or fire*, and *glazed*,” &c.

Rem. This, which is much smaller than the preceding subject, has neither been hardened by *art*, nor *glazed*. It is formed of a fat tenacious argilla, such as constitutes the Indian pipe-bowls. This earth is found of various hues, acquires, by exposure to the air, a pretty firm texture, and is susceptible of a fine polish—which, in the present instance, has been mistaken for glazing.

I am, with great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

G. TURNER.

President of the
A. Philo. Soc.

No.

* A third fibula (if I may so term it) of nearly the same diameter with this, but of copper, was afterwards taken out of the same tumulus. It was composed of two plates of the metal, united and perforated at the centre.